

# REASONS FOR



## Passing the BILL

For preventing the Exportation of WOOL;  
*Humbly Offered to the Wisdom of the Parliament.*

**W** Hereas there is a Bill depending before this *Honourable House* to prevent *Exportation of Wooll*, and Objections urged against several Clauses therein.

II. And that there is very little Material wanting in point of Law, but rather a due Execution of those Laws in Force.

III. The Crown hath of late been put to the Expence of more than 30000 *l. per Annum*, to prevent the *Exportation of Wooll* only on the Coast of *Kent* and *Sussex*, and that tho the Officers of the Customs (besides that Expence) have had for upwards of 30 Years, three parts of Four of all the Seizures and Forfeitures on Wool, yet in all that time the said *Exportation* was not prevented by them, as being inconsistent with their Interest.

IV. And on the other hand, It is matter of Fact, when the Merchants and other Dealers in the *Woollen Manufactures*, have made use of, and chosen such as they thought fit, a stop was then put to the said *Exportation*. When in truth, it is more Honourable for the Government, and a greater advantage to the Nation, to prevent an evil of this Nature, than punishing the Offender after the Fact is committed, if it be plainly discovered.

V. If the Bill depending do not pass into a Law this Session, it's humbly supposed much of this Years growth of Wool may be carried away before the next Session of Parliament, the consequence whereof is needless to express.

VI. And that if part of the Sum of 30000 *l.* the Crown hath been put too, only on the Coasts of *Kent* and *Sussex* be ordered to those Persons appointed by *Act of Parliament*, its presumed that that Sum may prevent the said *Exportation* out of all the Kingdom.

VII. That the *Woollen Manufacture* hath been and is the Chief Support of the Wealth and Strength of this Nation; upon which also in a great measure depends the Revenue of the Crown, the Prosperity of the Rich, and Maintenance of the Poor.

VIII. Not only *Holland* and *France* have for a long time set up that Manufacture (by the help of our Wool) but *Suedland*, *Flanders* and other Foreign Parts have done the same lately.

IX. It's believed, That for near Twenty Years of the Two last Reigns, the *French* gained by our Wool Exported thither, at least Two Millions *per Annum*; and altho' that Advantage to them hath been abated since His present Majesties Accession to the Throne, by reason chiefly of the War, yet is still continued; and since the Peace greatly increased.

X. For the preventing this Evil, frequent Attempts have been made both by the altering the Laws and otherwise, but that they have not succeeded, is owing, not to the nature of the Disease, but unsuitableness of the Remedies used to remove it; nor hath the *Act for Suing the Hundred*, nor the Encrease of the Number of the *Custom-House Officers* (whose Profit arises by Seizures of Wool, or good Correspondence with the Offenders) prevented it; it being now Matter of Fact, that as great, if not greater quantities than ever, are *daily Transported*.

XI. But it is further Matter of Fact on the other hand, when such persons whose Interest it was to prevent it, were Impowered, it hath been effectually done; and when it was so in the Two later Reigns, it so sensibly Affected the *French* that their Ambassador here did use his utmost Endeavour to discourage those Persons; and so far prevail'd with the Government, as to effect it.

XII. Therefore it is humbly conceived, That except those Commissioners are enabled (who are empowered by Law in the First Year of King *William* and Queen *Maries* Reign) to prevent the *Exportation of Wooll*, whose Interest it is to do it, It cannot rationally be expected that it should be done without a Fund to answer their Trust, with which they would soon restore a Flourishing Trade to this Kingdom.

XIII. That when Application hath been made, both to the last and present Government to prevent it; after several *References*, *Examinations* and *Reports* from the *Commissioners of the Customs*, it hath been by them thought necessary for a distinct Commission in this Case, as may appear by the Reports and Proceedings therein, if required.

XIV. At a Committee of the *House of Commons* the last Parliament, it was asserted, That above Four Thousand Packs of Wool (besides Fells) were carried out of *Northumberland* into *Scotland* in the Year 1697. And from thence Shipped into Foreign Parts, and that great Quantities were the last Year bought on the Sheeps Backs, in order to be carried for *Scotland* as soon as Shorn, which accordingly is since found true; besides what hath been Exported from all other Parts of *England*.

XV. And if the *French* have expended many Thousand Pounds to Maintain their Trade in making *Lustrings* and *Alamodes*, (which is the Manufacture only of one Town in *France*) and to destroy our *Lustring Company* here (that Rivals them therein) What ought not we to do to preserve our Trade of the *Woollen Manufacture*, upon which depends the Riches and Strength of the Nation, and Imployment of above One Million of Persons.



